



YOUR CITY, YOUR PARKS

GRAND RAPIDS

PARKS & RECREATION

STRATEGIC MASTERPLAN

January 12, 2017

**“To provide quality leisure opportunities
to the Grand Rapids community.”**

OUR MISSION:

**“To provide our community
with inspirational experiences
through the responsible management
and collaborative stewardship
of the City’s natural, educational,
and cultural resources.”**

1 / PLAN PROCESS & ENGAGEMENT

2 / SYSTEM TODAY

3 / SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE

4 / REALIZING THE VISION

MASTER PLAN PROCESS AND KEY COMPONENTS

MISSION, VISION, VALUES ALIGNMENT

PARKS INVENTORY AND RECREATION ANALYSIS

FUTURE NEEDS, OPPORTUNITIES AND VISION

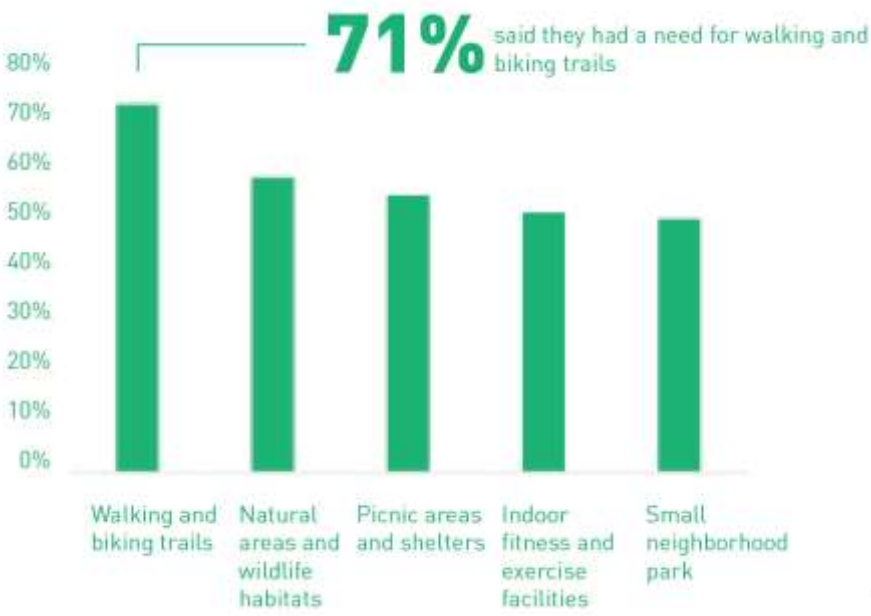
FINAL PLAN, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Events by Ward:

- » Ward 1: 17
- » Ward 2: 17
- » Ward 3: 17
- » Downtown: 23

My Parks & ETC Survey



2/ GRAND RAPIDS PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM TODAY

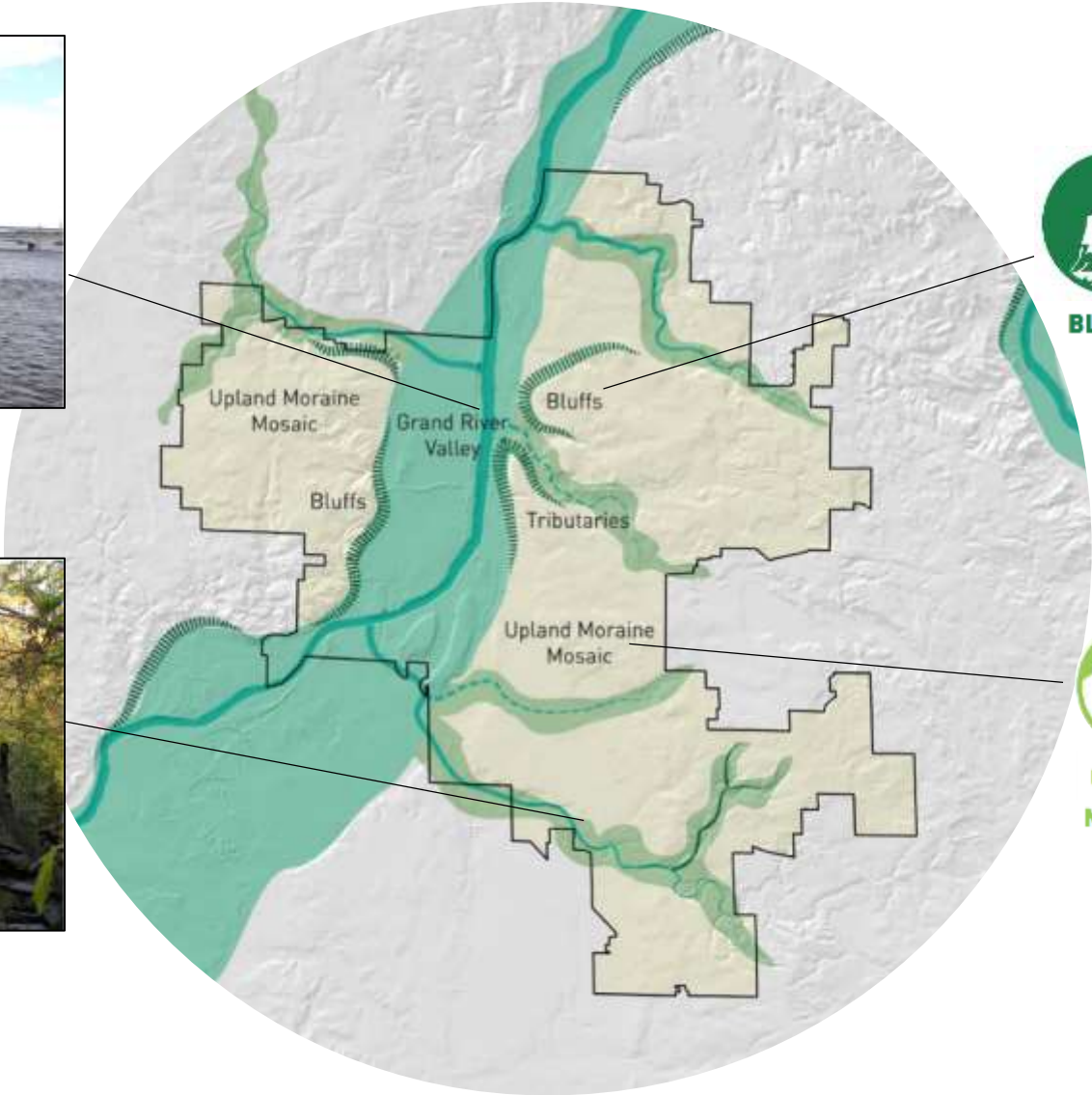
ECOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK



Ah-Nab-Awen Park



Ken-O-Sha Park



Lookout Park



Makay-Jaycee Park

2/ GRAND RAPIDS PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM TODAY

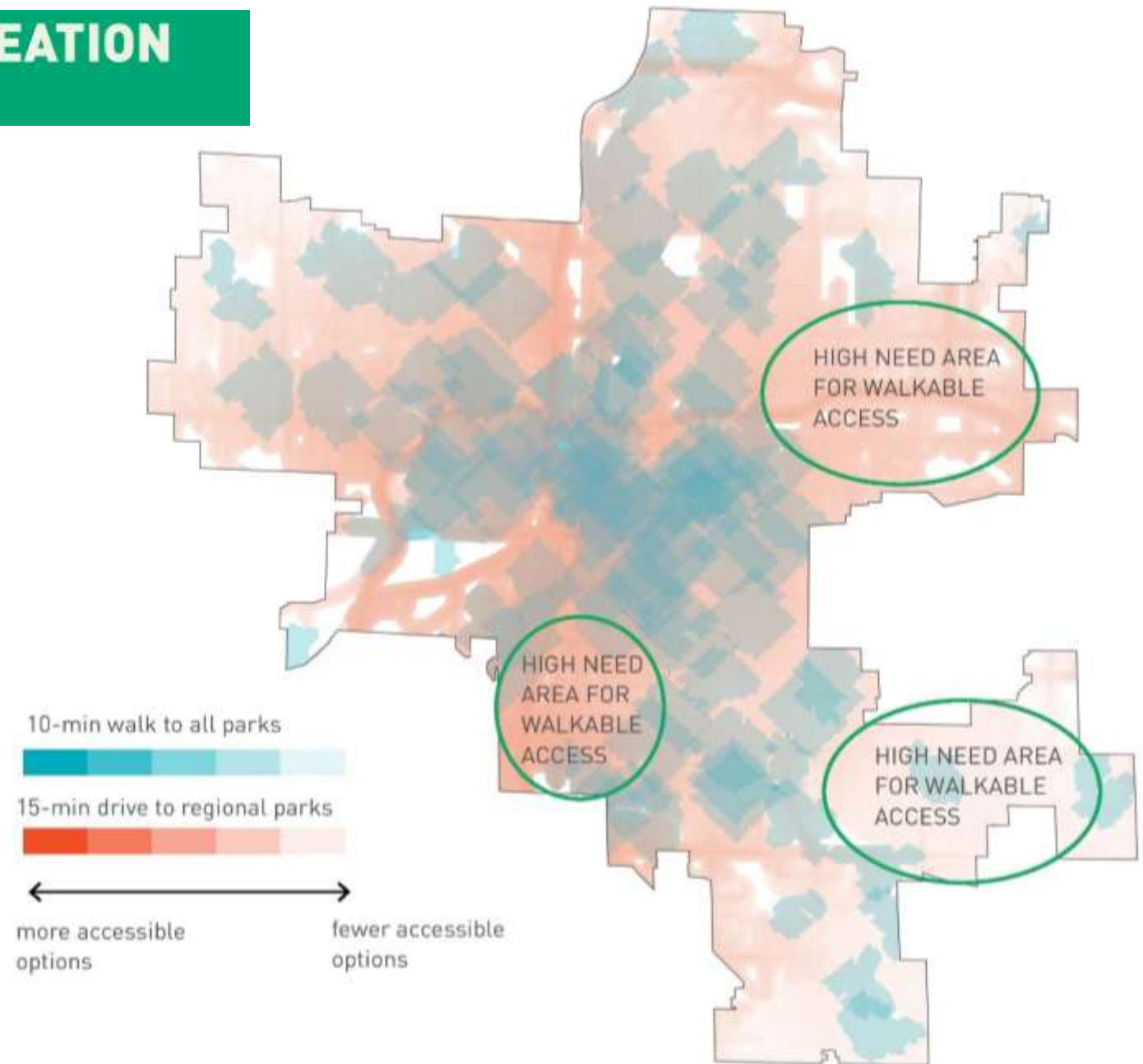
“We will work to ensure that there is a park within walking distance of every child who lives in our city.”

– Mayor Bliss, State of the City 2016

Analysis of walking and driving times across Grand Rapids shows

33%

of residents do NOT have access to a park within a 10-min walk



3/ SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE

MASTER PLAN PRINCIPLES



1. Access and Equity



2. Ecological Diversity



3. Identity



4. Economic Sustainability



5. Healthy Community

3/ SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE

MASTER PLAN STRATEGIES

Four Strategies were developed to create a park system that achieves the listed Principles. They are:



Connected Network of Parks, Natural
Areas and Waterways



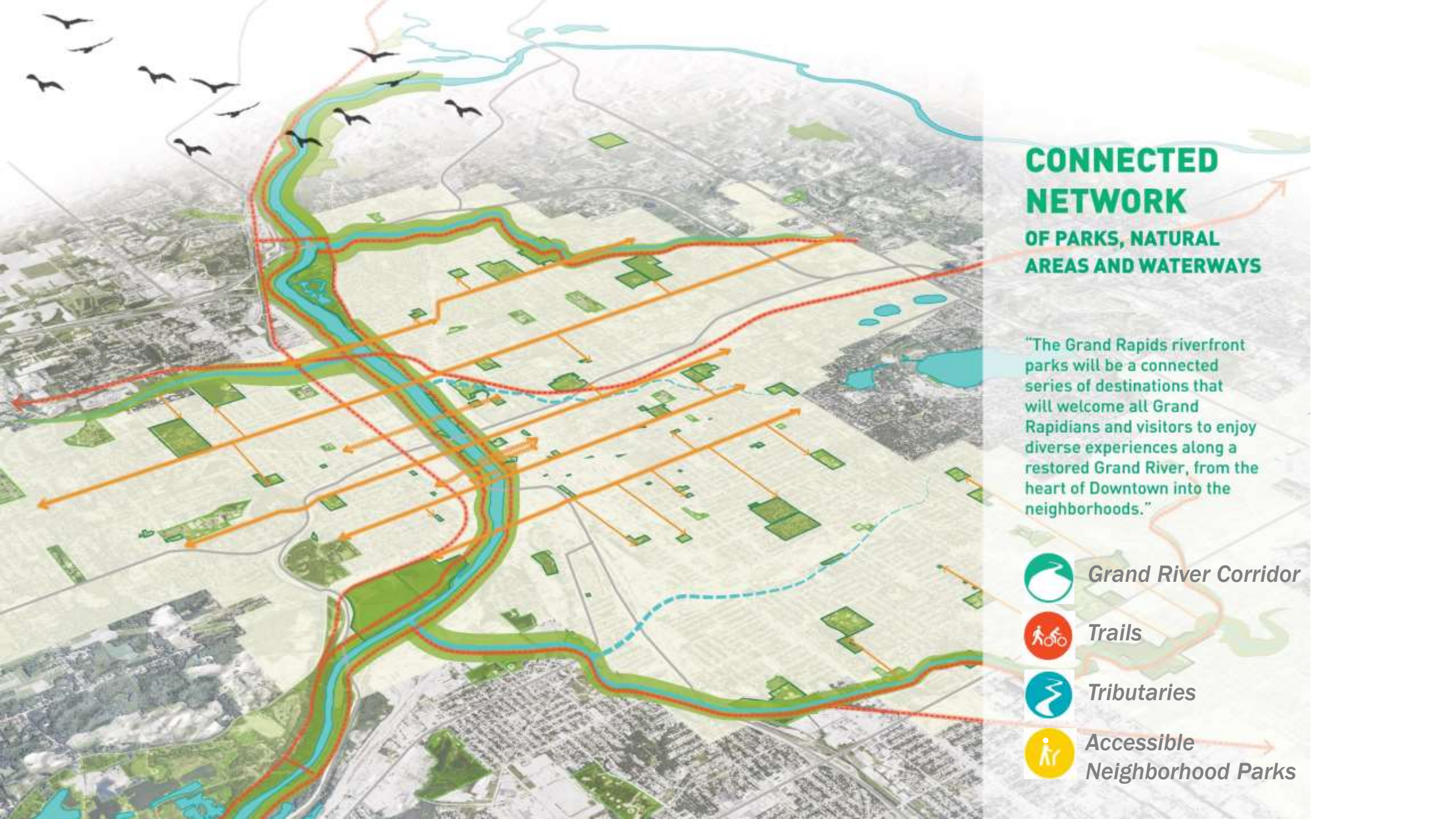
Healthy Community



Neighborhood Investments



Sustainable System



CONNECTED NETWORK OF PARKS, NATURAL AREAS AND WATERWAYS

"The Grand Rapids riverfront parks will be a connected series of destinations that will welcome all Grand Rapidians and visitors to enjoy diverse experiences along a restored Grand River, from the heart of Downtown into the neighborhoods."



Grand River Corridor



Trails



Tributaries



*Accessible
Neighborhood Parks*

3/ SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE

CONNECTED SYSTEM



Grand River Corridor



Trails & Tributaries



*Accessible
Neighborhood Parks*



EXAMPLE
Butterworth



EXAMPLE Butterworth

- » Physical Connections
- » Ecological Restoration
- » Environmental Education

- 1 Public Art
- 2 Solar power
- 3 Multi-modal path
- 4 Adventure playground
- 5 Trail signage
- 6 Environmental education
- 7 Pure Michigan Water Trail access & boat launch
- 8 Environmental signage
- 9 Riverbank restoration
- 10 Water activities

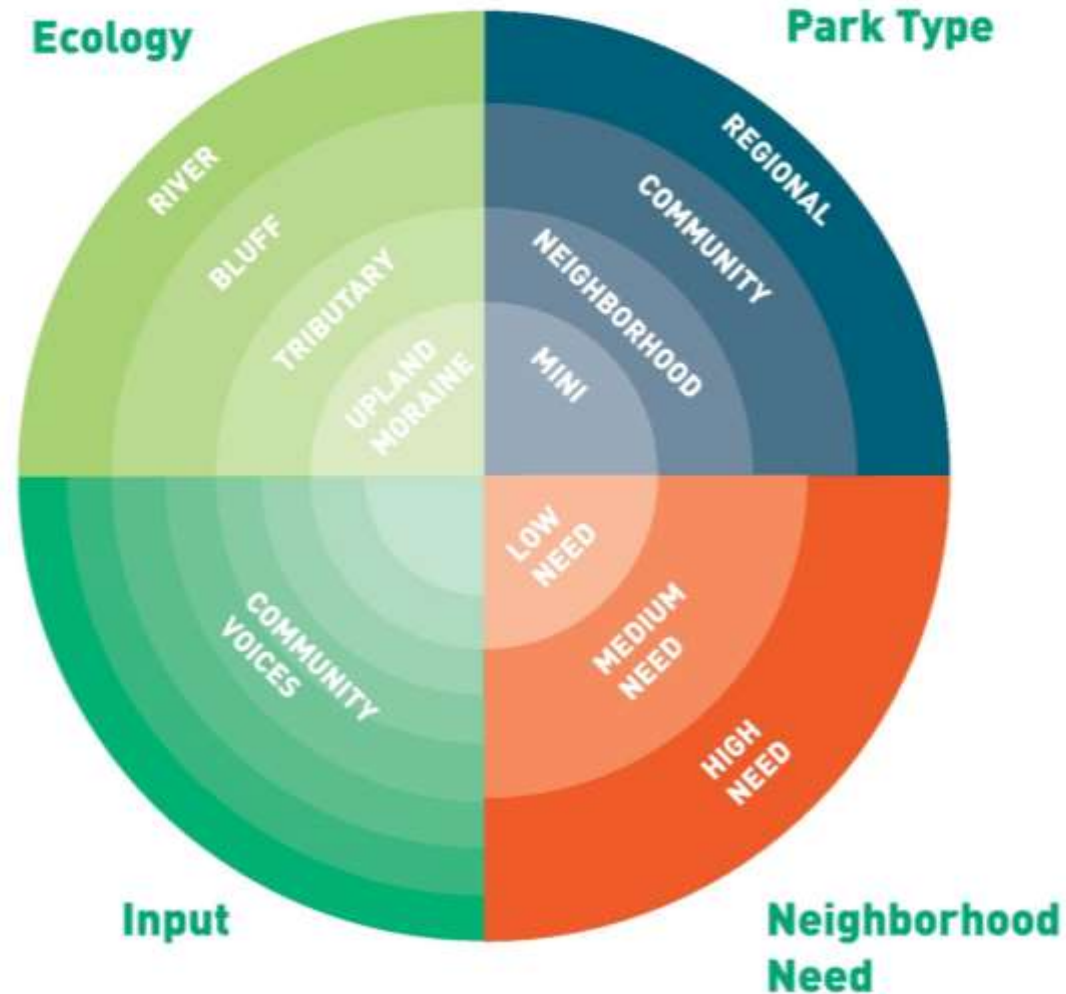


3/ SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE

NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT

The framework shown here offers creative strategies and guidelines that can be implemented through regular maintenance and capital projects to make existing parks and amenities shine.

The improvements can be implemented based on ecology, programming, and identity.



RIVER VALLEY



BLUFFS



TRIBUTARIES



UPLAND MORaine

REGIONAL PARKS

50+ acres

COMMUNITY PARKS

10-50 acres

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

1-10 acres

MINI PARKS

←1 acres

EXAMPLE

HUFF PARK REGIONAL PARK / TRIBUTARY

ECOLOGY

Preserve continuous habitat areas with access through perimeter loop trails

PROGRAM

Clarify natural areas and active recreation zones, providing a variety of experiences

IDENTITY

Strengthen identity as an ecological park through gateway and educational signage

Intensify hubs for recreation and nature center



3/ SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE

NEIGHBORHOOD INVESTMENT

REGIONAL PARK



COMMUNITY PARK



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK



MINI PARK



PARK ACCESS



CONNECTIVITY

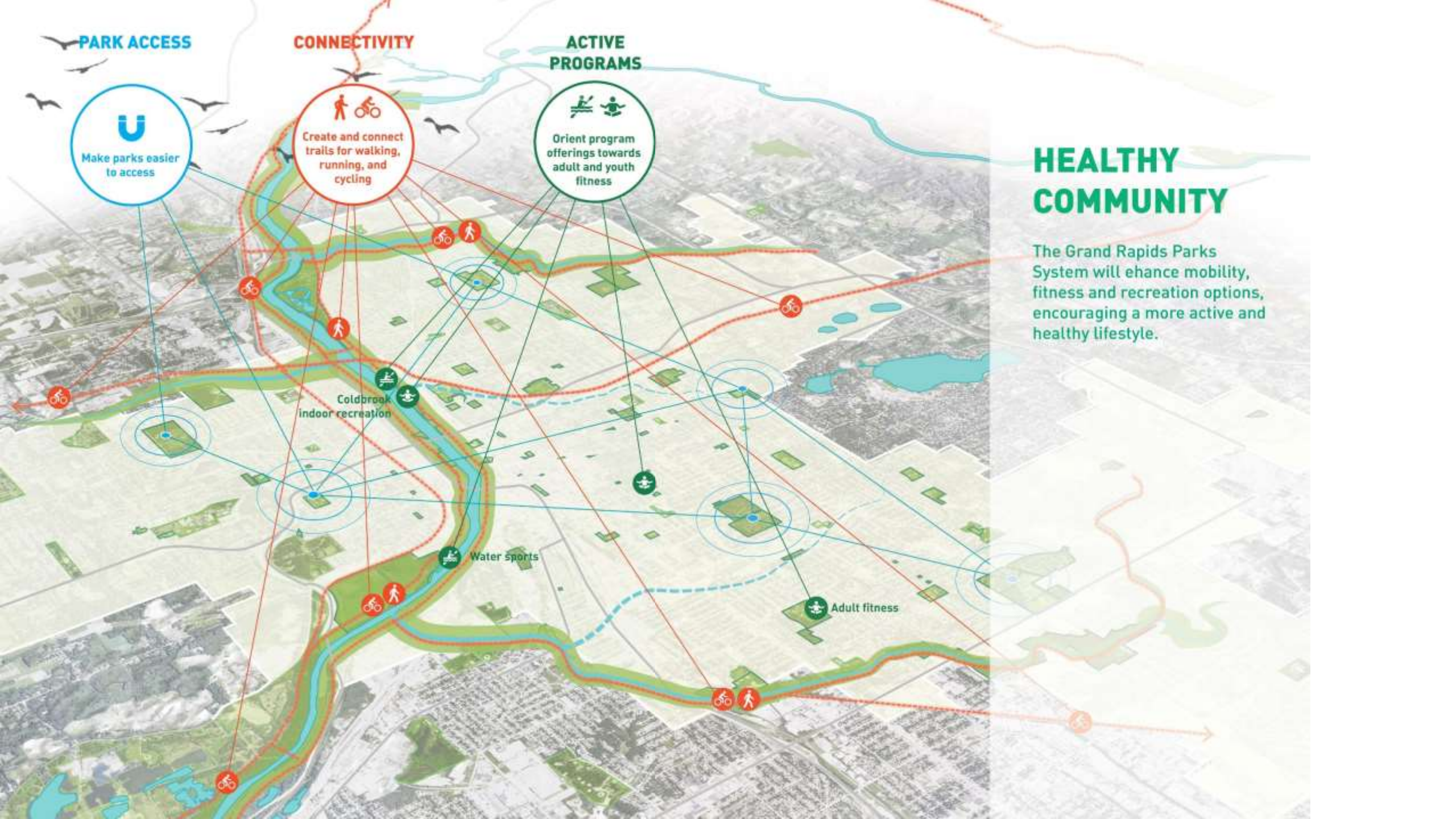


ACTIVE PROGRAMS



HEALTHY COMMUNITY

The Grand Rapids Parks System will enhance mobility, fitness and recreation options, encouraging a more active and healthy lifestyle.



3/ SHARED VISION FOR THE FUTURE

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

- » Connected trail system
- » Outdoor fitness
- » Recreation offerings for all
- » Indoor community and recreation facilities
- » Special events and festivals



EXAMPLE

Waterfront Community and Recreation Center: Coldbrook or other riverfront site

- 1 Potential indoor fitness facility
- 2 Space for outdoor fitness (with exercise equipment)
- 3 Seating for passive enjoyment
- 4 Space for events (music, art, markets etc.)
- 5 Continuous riverfront trail
- 6 Flood resilient landscape (can be an educational opportunity too)
- 7 Recreation equipment rentals
- 8 Easy access down to the river
- 9 Launch for kayaks and paddles (and a chance to touch the water)



BUILD PARTNERSHIPS



Partnerships with community groups, businesses and institutions

REVIVED MAINTENANCE



Reduced maintenance and more natural conditions

GENERATE REVENUE



Revenue generation through concessions, events, and rentals

SUSTAINABLE SYSTEM

By building partnerships, shifting maintenance regimes to reduce the burden, and by introducing programs to generate revenue the Grand Rapids Park System can be both thriving and self-sustaining.

Reduced Maintenance

DEVELOPMENT POTENTIAL

Nature Center

Community group

Bike rentals

Business Association

Events

Kayak rentals

Concessions

4/ REALIZING THE VISION

The following slides show potential
pilot placemaking projects
to begin to implement the Master Plan

4/ REALIZING THE VISION

ROTATING ART EXHIBITS AT PARKS



Public Art, Pittsburgh

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NATURE PLAYGROUND



Nature Playground, Portland

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PARTNERSHIPS FOR COMMUNITY GARDENS



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COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACE



Food trucks at Lawn on the D, Boston

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ACTION SPORTS PARK (SKATE PARK, BOULDER/CLIMBING PARK, ETC.)



Community skatepark,
Denmark

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NEXT GENERATION PICNIC AREAS



Community Fire Pit, Westfield

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AMPLIFYING PARK ECOLOGY



Wetland Ecology, Portland

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ROTATING ART EXHIBITS AT PARKS



Flexible recreation and event space

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ROTATING ART EXHIBITS AT PARKS



Mississippi River, Minneapolis

4/ REALIZING THE VISION

TRAIL CONNECTIVITY THROUGHOUT THE CITY



Green Line Trails, Memphis

THANK YOU!

The final draft plan will be available to the public

January 20, 2017

A Public Hearing at City Commission is scheduled for

February 21, 2017

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://grcity.us/parks/Pages/2016-Master-Plan.aspx>

SEND COMMENTS TO:

parksandrec@grcity.us